



Newsletter

July, 1955

No. 3

h and Order Conference

Prof. Paul S. Minear of Andover New-Theological School, Newton Center, Massachusetts, will direct the preparations for a North American study conference on "The Nature of the Unity Week." This conference, to be held under the auspices of the World Council of Churches in 1957 or 1958, will include theologians, church administrators, laymen, lay women and youth. (*Christian Unity Newsletter*, April page 3.)

Mr. Minear is a distinguished Biblical and theological scholar. He is the author of a half-dozen books well recognized in theological circles. Among them are *Eyes of Faith*, *The Kingdom of God*, *The Power*, and *Christian Hope and the Second Coming*.

Council Enlarges Program

The Council on Christian Unity is enlarging its program of service to the people of Christ beginning this year. Two of the Council's staff members will be giving more time to the program. Robert Tobias, director of the department of ecumenical service for the Council, will be giving one-half time in 1955-56 instead of one-third time. Mr. Tobias will continue as a member of the faculty of the School of Religion, Butler University.

Ronald E. Osborn, director of the department of church history, will be giving more time this year to his work with the Council. Mr. Osborn, head of the department of church history at the School of Religion, has recently returned from a year of ecumenical service and study in Europe and the Near East.

The expansion of the work of the Council has made necessary an additional room in the Missions Building. During the past year, Mr. Tobias and Mr. Osborn conducted Council business from a single office.

Disciple to Begin Work With Refugees In Egypt

Malcolm McCallum, associate minister of First Christian Church, Bakersfield, California, will leave from New York on July 21 to begin work among refugees in Egypt. He will serve the Near East Christian Council Committee for Refugee Work for a period of three years. The support for Mr. McCallum comes through Week of Compassion funds.

With headquarters in Cairo, Mr. McCallum will supervise the distribution of relief goods to the refugees. In addition he will negotiate with churches, governmental ministries and United States representatives concerning the relief program and will work with local refugee committees in providing loans, distributing clothing, initiating agricultural rehabilitation projects and encouraging a creative social life among residents and refugees.

The Administration of the new appointee's work will be through the Council on Christian Unity in the framework of the World Council of Churches and the ecumenical bodies of the Near East, particularly the Near East Christian Council.

Mr. McCallum holds degrees from the University of Oregon and the School of Religion, Butler University. He also attended Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon. He has specialized in ecumenical relations and in the history of the eastern Mediterranean area.

The Near East Christian Council Committee for Refugee Work distributed in 1954 some \$705,000 in clothing sent by voluntary agencies in several countries. The committee also distributed another \$95,000 in foodstuffs, \$5,000 in medicine and numerous cash gifts for rehabilitation programs.

Christian Unity Newsletter

Issued quarterly to members and friends of the Council by the Council On Christian Unity (an association of Disciples of Christ for the promotion of Christian unity, for ecumenical fellowship and service), 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana. Printed by University Place Christian Church, Champaign, Illinois, as a contribution to the cause of Christian unity. Information in the Newsletter should not be reproduced in general publications without prior clearance with the Council.

Prime Minister Delivers Ainslie Lecture On Unity

The Honorable R. S. Garfield Todd, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia and a former missionary from churches of Disciples of Christ in New Zealand, delivered the seventh Peter Ainslie Memorial Lecture on Christian Unity on June 1. The lecture was delivered at the University of Natal in South Africa under the sponsorship of the Council on Christian Unity, which was represented by Basil Holt of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Was Missionary

Mr. Todd, who was for twenty years a missionary to Southern Rhodesia, spoke of the historic plea of Disciples for Christian unity. He confessed that he once believed his church was the only one which possessed the truth, but he said that he gained a better perspective while on the mission field. He warned that unity must be based upon sound doctrine, but he emphasized the important place of fellowship and love among Christians.

Lecturers in other years have included the Archbishop of Capetown, Dr. Sidney M. Berry, Alan Paton, Sir George McLeod, the Rev. A. M. Meiring and Dr. Phillippe Maury.

Union Called Success

The only Presbyterian-Methodist church in the United Kingdom and Eire recently celebrated its first anniversary with services of Thanksgiving. It is the little Taughmonagh church hall erected in one of Belfast's big new housing projects by the two denominations as an experiment in church unity.

According to the Presbyterian pastor, the Rev. W. M. Jackson, the church has been an outstanding success. Writing in the first issue of the church magazine he described the experiment as "a smack in the eye to those timid, doubting people who said it could not be done."

The congregation comprises 220 families and 350 children attending Sunday School. It scrupulously tries to preserve the traditions of both denominations. The experiment attracted a good deal of attention in religious circles in Northern Ireland and it is likely that further joint efforts of the same kind will be undertaken by the two denominations.

Third W.C.C. Assembly

Two invitations have been received by the World Council of Churches regard to a site for the Third Assembly to be held probably in 1954. These invitations, from Tokyo and Rhodes, were received at a meeting of the executive committee of the World Council in February.

Use of Funds Reported

At the May 16 meeting of the executive committee of the Council on Christian Unity it was reported that two \$50 grants had been made by the Council for unity work abroad. A gift, sent to Basil Holt in South Africa, has been used to further the Christian Education Movement of Southern Africa and to benefit the Wisconsin Community.

Fifty dollars has been sent to Hallam C. Shorrock, Jr., WCC Church World Service representative in Japan. Mr. Shorrock has been appointed by the Council on Christian Unity as special representative in the Far East.

W.C.C. Staff Members Visit Indianapolis

Two leaders of the World Council of Churches were in Indianapolis in May and had the opportunity to confer with representatives of Disciples of Christ. The visitors were Dr. Robert Bilheimer, associate general secretary of the WCC and director of the Division of Studies, and Dr. Samuel McCavert, associate general secretary of the WCC in New York.

Dr. Bilheimer and Dr. Cavert were in Indianapolis for conferences with representatives of the Council on Christian Unity and others on the work of the World Council of Churches, especially in its studies division.

While in the city the two leaders met with Virgil A. Sly and Mrs. Mae Howard of the foreign division of the United Christian Missionary Society concerning study projects in India and South Africa. They also met with Miss Jessie Trout, vice-president of the United Society, and made brief presentations to the program committee of the International Convention.

Disciples Enter Unity Discussions in New Zealand

Disciples of Christ in New Zealand have been participating in unity discussions, according to word received from Principal A. D. Haddon of the College at Glen Leith, Dunedin. The faith and order conference was held in May, and during the conference Baptists and Disciples present had an unofficial conversation as to the possibility of opening negotiations for unity. These are to be at a "committee level" for the time being, with groups of ministers in various localities conferring and negotiating.

Disciples in New Zealand also are taking part in negotiations with Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches. After a preliminary meeting has decided to continue, with the removal of their church courts. The May faith and order gathering made up of more than 100 delegates Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Disciples, Congregational and many of Friends churches and the Salvation Army. The delegates discussed the nature of the church, the role of the church and the scriptures, and the nature and authority.

International Convention

Christian unity will be a major theme at the 1959 International Convention of Disciples of Christ. The convention will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and will mark the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the Declaration and Address in Washington, Pennsylvania, by Thomas Camp-

W. C. C. To Aid In Kenya

An appeal for \$150,000 to aid the Christian Council of Kenya this year in its work of rehabilitating former members of the terroristic Mau Mau was launched in Geneva recently by the World Council of Churches.

It is expected that the same amount will be sought in 1956.

The funds will be used for a program in Mau Mau detention camps and in five new Nairobi community centers. European and African workers will be recruited to conduct the program.

Special attention will be given to work among former Mau Mau women, a World Council announcement said.

The British Council of Churches recently issued an appeal for \$140,000 to aid the Kenya Christian Council program.

"Recognizing that the appeal of the British Council of Churches would not provide sufficient funds for all the projects involved," the Geneva announcement stated, "the World Council of Churches sought assurance from the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as from churches in Europe, that support might be forthcoming for a wider appeal."

"The assurances have been given, with the result that the figure of \$150,000 has been named as an overall target for the current year by the World Council."

Recent Activities of the Staff

Members of the staff of the Council on Christian Unity have participated in a number of activities in recent weeks.

George Walker Buckner, Jr., executive secretary -

Dr. Buckner attended the Conference of U.S.A. Member Churches of the World Council of Churches at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.

Robert Tobias, director of the department of ecumenical service -

Mr. Tobias represented the Council at the conference of Disciple seminary middlers, the meeting of the Interim Committee of the Council of Agencies in Cincinnati, and the Northern Idaho, Washington and British Columbia Convention, and delivered a lecture on unity at Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa.

Ecumenical Calendar

World Council of Churches

July 2-31: Training Work Camp, Brazil

July 25-30: Divisional and Departmental working committees, Davos, Switzerland

Aug. 2-9: Central Committee, Davos, Switzerland

Ecumenical Institute

July 18-Aug. 8: Theological Students, Bossey

Aug. 10-22: Laymen's Vacation Course, Bossey

Sept. 2-12: Bible Study Methods, Bossey

Oct. 1-Feb. 15: Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, Bossey

In U.S.A.

C.C.U.

Oct. 25-26: Scribes' meeting, *Plan of Union*, near Indianapolis.

N.C.C.

Oct. 31-Nov. 1: Life and Work Annual Assembly, Cleveland

Nov. 1-Nov. 4: Churches and Social Welfare, Cleveland

Nov. 7-Nov. 10: Church Women, Cleveland

Orthodox Representative To Geneva

Orthodox Bishop James Koukouzis of Malta has been appointed by the Ecumenical Patriarch (Constantinople) as Orthodox representative on the staff of the World Council. Heretofore, Orthodox interests in the ecumenical movement have been made known through conferences and staff members with specific responsibilities related to Orthodox churches (Robert Tobias represented Orthodox needs in inter-church aid). But there was no Orthodox representative at staff level. As a result the WCC was criticized in various quarters as a "western," Protestant organization.

Bishop James will reside in Geneva. He will be related to all WCC departments, and "will help explain the WCC to Orthodox churches and bring the contribution of Orthodoxy to the WCC's headquarters."

Bishop James was dean of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Boston for many years, and is familiar with Orthodoxy in Europe and the Middle East.

Selected Books

IV. Disciples and Unity

Garrison, W. E., *Christian Unity and the Disciples*, Bethany, St. Louis, 1955

Ainslee, Peter, *The Message of the Disciples for the Union of the Church*, Revell Co., N.Y., 1913

Morrison, C. C., *The Unfinished Reformation*, Harper & Bros., N.Y., 1951

Short, H. E., *Christian Unity Is Not Business*, Bethany, St. Louis, 1951

Campbell, Thomas, *Declaration of Address*, Int'l Convention, Indianapolis, 1949.

West, W. G., *Barton W. Stone and Christian Unity*, Historical Society, Nashville, 1954

Various, *Disciples and Ecumenical Issues*, Shane Quarterly, School of Religion, Butler, Indianapolis, July, 1954, Jan., April, 1955

Various, *Response to Amsterdam*, 1949

Response to Lund, 1952

Response to Evanston, 1954, Council on Christian Unity, Indianapolis

Books listed in previous issues:

I. The Nature of the Church

II. Evanston

III. The Ecumenical Movement

Council's Executive Meets

The Executive Committee of the Council, meeting in Indianapolis, July 16, reviewed the work of the three departments, together with general policy. The Committee discussed plans for interpretative literature on Christian unity, and named Dr. Will Cramblet on the Council's Joint Committee on Interpretation, which will be working out long-range plans.

The next Annual Meeting of the Council will be held in connection with the next Assembly of the International Convention, at Des Moines, Iowa, according to the decision of the Executive Committee.